

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 as follows.

1 to 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably attachable, the process cartridge including an element relating to image formation, said image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming unit adapted to drive the process cartridge to form an image;

and

a switching unit adapted to switch an image forming condition of said image forming unit on the basis of an accumulation of a drive time of the process cartridge driven by said image forming unit,

wherein when the accumulation of the drive time reaches a predetermined value, said switching unit switches the image forming condition at a timing which is not during performing a job for forming a plurality of images.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the process cartridge is provided with a non-volatile memory medium for storing ~~a count value of said counting unit~~ the accumulation value of the drive time of the process cartridge driven by said image forming unit.

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the non-volatile memory medium is a ferromagnetic memory or a ferroelectric memory.

11. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said switching unit switches the image forming condition at a timing when said image forming unit does not perform an electrophotographic process.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A control method for an image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably attachable, the process cartridge including an element relating to image formation, said control method comprising:

a step of counting a drive time of the process cartridge driven in the image forming apparatus;

a step of determining whether an accumulation of the drive time counted in said counting step reaches a predetermined value; and

a step of switching an image forming condition of the image forming apparatus at a timing which is not during performing a job for forming a plurality of images, when it is determined in said determining step that the accumulation of the drive time reaches the predetermined value.

14. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said switching unit switches the image forming condition at a timing when a sheet is not conveyed.

15. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said switching unit switches a primary charging current.

16. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said drive time is a drive time of a photosensitive drum comprised in the process cartridge.

17. to 24. (Canceled)